His Majesties
GRACIOUS
SPEECH
TO
Both Houses
OF
PARLIAMENT
On *Thursday, November* 24. 1664.
Being the first day of
Their Meeting.

LONDON:
Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*,
Printers to the Kings most Excellent
Majesty, 1664.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

His Majesties

GRACIOUS

SPEECH

TO

Both Houses

OF

PARLIAMENT

On Thursday, November 3. 1664.

Being the Day of

Their Meeting.

62...385

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His Majesties Gracious SPEECH

To both HOUSES of

PARLIAMENT

On *Thursday*, *November* 24. 1664.

Being the first day of their Meeting.

My Lords and Gentlemen;

WHen We parted last in this place, I told you that I did not think We should meet here again till *November*, though I Prorogued you but to a day in *August*; but I must now tell you, That if I could have suspected, or reasonably have imagined that Our Neighbours would have dealt so unneighbourly with Me, and

have forced Me to make ſuch Preparations as they have done for My Defence, at ſo vaſt an Expence; I ſay, if I could have foreſeen in *Auguſt*, that they would have Treated Me thus, I ſhould not have prevented your coming together then; yet truly I have reaſon even to be glad that it hath been deferred thus long: You have had leaſure to attend your own conveniences in the Countrey, and the Publick Service there, and I have been able to let Our Neighbours ſee, that I can defend My Self and My Subjects, againſt their Inſolence, upon the Stock of My own Credit and Reputation; and that when I find it neceſſary for the good of my People, I can ſet out a Fleet to Sea, which will not decline meeting with all their Naval Power, even before the Parliament comes together; which I am perſwaded if they had believed poſſible, they would not ſo importunately have preſt me to it; I will not deny to you I have done more then I thought I could have done, which I impute to the Credit your Vote gave Me, and to the opinion all men have, that I did what you wiſhed I ſhould do, by borrowing very liberally from My Self out of My own Stores, and by the Kind and Cheerful Aſſiſtance the

City

City of *London* hath given Me: I have a Fleet now at Sea worthy of the *Engliſh* Nation, and (to ſay no more) not inferiour to any that hath been ſet out in any age; and which (that I may uſe all freedom with you) to diſcharge to morrow, and repleniſh all My Stores, I am perſwaded would coſt Me little leſs then Eight hundred thouſand pounds.

What hath paſſed between Me and the *Dutch*, and by what degrees, accidents and provocations, I have been neceſſitated to the Preparation and Expence I have made, you ſhall be told when I have done; I ſhall onely tell you, That if I had proceeded more ſlowly, I ſhould have expoſed My own Honour, and the Honour of the Nation, and ſhould have ſeemed not confident of your Affections, and the aſſurance you gave Me to ſtand by Me in this occaſion. That which I am now very earneſtly to deſire, and indeed expect from you, is, That you will uſe all poſſible expedition in your Reſolutions, leſt that by unneceſſary Formalities, the World ſhould think that I have not your full Concurrence in what is done, and that you are not forward enough in the ſupport of it, which I am ſure you will be, and that in raiſing the

Supplies, you take ſuch ſure Order, that when the Expence is obvious and certain, the Supplies be as real and ſubſtantial, not imaginary as the laſt Subſidies were, which you all well enough underſtand.

Maſter Speaker, and you Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons, I know not whether it be worth My pains to endeavour to remove a vile jealouſie, which ſome ill men ſcatter abroad, and which I am ſure will never ſink into the breaſt of any man, who is worthy to ſit upon your Benches, that when you have given Me a noble and proportionable Supply for the Support of a War, I may be induced by ſome evil Councellours (for they will be thought to think very reſpectively of My own Perſon) to make a ſudden Peace, and get all that Money for My own Private Occaſions. I am ſure you All think it an unworthy Jealouſie, and not to deſerve an Anſwer. I would not be thought to have ſo bruitiſh an Inclination, as to love War for War-ſake; God knows, I deſire no bleſſing in this World ſo much, as that I may live to ſee a Firm Peace between all Chriſtian Princes and States: But let me tell you, and you may be moſt confident of it, that when I am compelled to enter into a War, for the Protection,

Honour,

Honour, and Benefit of My Subjects, I will (God willing) not make a Peace but upon the obtaining and ſecuring thoſe Ends, for which the War is entred into; and when that can be done, no good man will be ſorry for the determination of it.

To conclude, My Lords and Gentlemen, I conjure you all in your ſeveral Stations, to uſe all poſſible expedition, that Our Friends and Our Enemies may ſee that I am poſſeſſed of your Hearts, and that We move with one Soul: And I am ſure you will not deceive my Expectation.

LONDON,
Printed by *John Bill* and *Chriſtopher Barker*,
Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent
Majeſty, 1664.